

REMARKS

The application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated March 13, 2003.

Claims 1-16 are pending in this application, with claims 1, 5, 7, 11 and 13 being in independent form. By the present Amendment, claim 4 has been amended to correct formal matters only which do not effect the scope of the claims and which are being made for reasons unrelated to patentability. It is submitted that no new matter has been added and no new issues have been raised by the present Amendment.

Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly indefinite. Without conceding the propriety of this rejection, claim 4 has been carefully reviewed and amended to correct a formal matter not effecting the scope of the claim and for reasons unrelated to patentability. Withdrawal of the rejection under Section 112, second paragraph, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3, 5-9 and 11-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,456,288 to Brockway et al. Claims 4, 10 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly obvious from Brockway et al. in view of U.S. Patent 6,304,271 to Nehme. Applicant has carefully considered the Examiner's comments and the cited art, and respectfully submits independent claims 1, 5, 7, 11 and 13 are patentably distinct from the cited art, for at least the following reasons.

As described in the specification of the present application, a clip map has an obelisk shape and consists of a clip stack portion and a clip pyramid portion (pages 12 - 13). In certain graphic languages the obelisk shape of a clipmap can not be properly represented.

Accordingly, in an embodiment of the present disclosure, a level of the clip stack can be represented with its own mipmap levels (page 13, lines 10-16, Figs. 2A, 2B.) Of course, the claims are not limited to the disclosed embodiments.

As recited in independent claim 1, a method of simulating clip texturing comprises providing a clip stack of a portion of a texture image, the clip stack having a plurality of levels, wherein each level includes data representing the portion of the texture image at a different resolution. For at least one of the plurality of levels, a stack of images is generated, wherein each stack of images includes data representing a plurality of correlated images of increasingly reduced resolution. A geometry formed of at least one graphic primitive is rendered, using one of the stacks of images generated.

Brockway et al., relates to a method and apparatus for building a real time graphic scene database having increased resolution and improved rendering speed. Brockway et al. describes building a clip map (column 4, line 63 - column 5, line 3). Column 11, lines 12 - 17 describe a clip stack as a multi-resolution data structure comprising the resolution sets necessary for rendering an image and containing a copy of imagery data at low resolution imagery and a copy at successively higher resolutions.

However, there is no teaching or suggestion in Brockway et al., of generating a stack of images for at least one of the plurality of levels. Accordingly, Applicant finds no teaching or suggestion of providing a clip stack of a portion of a texture image, the clip stack having a plurality of levels, wherein each level includes data representing the portion of the texture image at a different resolution and for at least one of the plurality of levels, generating a stack of images, wherein each stack of images includes data representing a plurality of correlated images

of increasingly reduced resolution, as recited in independent claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicant submits independent claim 1 is patentably distinct from the cited art. Independent claims 5, 7, 11 and 13 are believed to be patentably distinct from the cited art, for at least similar reasons.

The Office is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required in connection with this amendment and to credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

If a petition for an extension of time is required to make this response timely, this paper should be considered to be such a petition, and the Commissioner is authorized to charge the requisite fees to our Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

If a telephone interview could advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney.

Entry of this amendment and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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